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Jubilant U.S. Reds Make Plans for '64

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WASHINGTON—Encouraged by the recent court decision which at least temporarily relieves the Communist party of registration responsibilities, Red leaders in this country are confidently making plans for 1964 activities.

Both Gus Hall, general secretary of the party, and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, chairman, have indicated their pleasure over the December decision of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

The decision reversed an earlier conviction for the party's failure to submit registration statements to the government as provided in the McCarran Act.

WHILE THE PARTY regards the latest decision as a victory, it apparently has some doubt as to whether it will stand the test of time.

Hall, it is reported, is changing his "title" from general secretary to a "leading spokesman" for the party for fear of being "incriminated."

At the same time Chairman Flynn reminded some 60 party leaders at a recent meeting that the decision does not mean total victory has been achieved against the McCarran Act, which calls for registration of the party and party officials.

THE GUS HALL-Benjamin Davis Defense Committee, established to raise funds and issue propaganda in defense of the party and members, will continue in existence until there is no longer any prosecution under provisions of the act, Flynn reportedly told the leaders.

The chairman feels the fight will not be won until party members can obtain passports to travel to any country and are permitted to work in any defense facility.

At the high level meeting reviewing the past year and looking forward to 1964, party leaders also discussed civil rights legislation, the campaign against the ultra-right, and efforts to increase the party's membership and circulation of the organization's newspaper "The Worker."

THERE IS some feeling in the party that public support of civil rights legislation might be more harmful than

helpful. However, Benjamin J. Davis, head of the party's National Negro Commission, expressed belief that now is the time for the organization to appear at U.S. Senate hearings.

At the meeting of party leaders Davis urged that the party sponsor a voter-regis-

tration campaign among Negroes and other minority groups in selected cities.

DAVIS REPORTEDLY shocked some party leaders when he referred to Moscow as "another Birmingham" in remarking about the December riots in Moscow and the unexplained death of a student from Ghana.

Hall reportedly defended Moscow and tried to tie the Central Intelligence Agency into the incidents involving African students and the Kremlin.

Concern was expressed at the meeting over public reaction to the background of Lee Harvey Oswald, admitted Marxist and accused assassin. Hall warned leaders to be alert for a large-scale attack against communism in early 1964 by the ultra-right.

HALL REVEALED formation of a committee which will investigate the assassination of the late President Kennedy.

The committee reportedly will also attempt to prove there is some connection between John Birch Society members, wealthy oilmen, and owners of large industries.

A report from Phil Bart, the party's organizational secretary, indicated significant progress has been made in recruiting new members in recent months.